

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT

Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook Updated 2017

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Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – This document describes the graphical Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO) produced by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) for the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Hurricane basins and by the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) for the Central Pacific Hurricane basin. This product is a visual companion product to the text TWO. The text TWO describes areas of disturbed weather and their potential for tropical cyclone formation on two time scales – within the next 2 days and within the next 5 days. The Graphical TWO indicates the current location of the weather systems by encircling them and indicating their potential for development by a color code.

Beginning with the 2017 tropical cyclone season, the following changes will be made to the GTWO.

1. NHC will no longer depict the potential genesis area on the GTWO for disturbances which have advisory packages. The areal genesis forecasts is being discontinued because of the potential confusion with the cone graphic that will be available for these systems. User confusion is especially likely to occur if the genesis potential does not extend out to five days.
 2. NHC will shorten the textual discussion for disturbances which have advisory packages. For these systems, the TWO will only contain a statement that advisories are being written and a listing of the 2-day and 5-day genesis forecast values. It is desired that the advisory suite be the place users go for the latest information on these systems and not have a description of the system in two products issued at different times which could lead to contradictions and user confusion.
- b. Purpose - The intent of the Graphical TWO is to enhance the understanding and utility of the TWO by indicating the geographical locations of areas discussed in the text.
 - c. Audience – The Graphical TWO target audience includes other National Weather Service offices, media, emergency managers, and the general public.
 - d. Presentation Format – The Graphical TWO is a web-based graphic superimposed on the most recently available infrared geostationary satellite mosaic. The graphic indicates the locations of areas of disturbed weather discussed in the TWO by encircling them. Each circled area is numbered, with text descriptions of each numbered system given beneath the graphic.

The text descriptions are also presented in the form of a pop up whenever a user moves the computer's mouse pointer over an encircled area. The content of the text descriptions is identical to the content of the latest text TWO. The graphic also provides the development potential of each system with a color code and a genesis probability forecast.

Active tropical cyclones are also indicated in the Graphical TWO. Moving the mouse over active cyclones in the graphic will pop up a text block with the latest Public Advisory for that cyclone.

e. Feedback Method – Continuous feedback is solicited via an internet page e-mail link to the program manager in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch.

Technical and policy questions and comments on the Graphical TWO may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Wayne Presnell, W/AFS26
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13172
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283
or e-mail questions and comments to: wayne.presnell@noaa.gov

Part II - Technical Description

a. Format & Science Basis- The location, size, development potential, and shape of the outlined areas contained within the Graphical TWO are based on subjective forecaster interpretation of all available data including, but not limited to, remotely sensed data, in situ observations, global model forecast fields, and objectively analyzed meteorological fields.

b. Product Availability – The Graphical TWO will be issued four times daily during the hurricane season at 0000, 0600, 1200, and 1800 Coordinated Universal Time.

The Atlantic version of the graphical TWO can be viewed on the NHC's web site at:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_atl.shtml

The Eastern Pacific version of the graphical TWO can be viewed on the NHC's web site at:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_epac.shtml

The Central Pacific version of the graphical TWO can be viewed on the CPHC's web site at:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/>

c. Additional Information

A full description of this and other NWS Tropical Cyclone Forecast Center Products is provided

in NWSI 10-607 (formerly in NWSI 10-601), which is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/010.htm>